



# Automatic recognition of academic qualifications: building trust

IGLO HE meeting  
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# Points of departure

- Roots in the **Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC, 1997)** and may be a starting point to automatic recognition (AR) for some higher education systems and traditions. Implementation supported by work of Secretariats (CoE and UNESCO, EC), ENIC Bureau/NAB, and the LRC Committee.



The banner features the Council of Europe logo on the left, which includes a stylized 'e' and the text 'COUNCIL OF EUROPE' and 'CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE'. To the right of the logo is the text 'Council of Europe' in a large, white, serif font. Further right, the text 'Treaty Office' is displayed in a smaller, white, serif font. The background of the banner is dark blue with a faint map of Europe and three yellow stars at the top.

**Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region**  
**CETS No.: 165**  
Special conditions of opening for signature

<b>Opening for signature</b> Place: Lisbon Date : 11/4/1997	<b>Entry into force</b> Conditions: 5 Ratifications including 3 member States of the Council of Europe and/or the UNESCO Europe Region. Date : 1/2/1999
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# Demonstration of political will

- **Ministerial agreements** to explore and apply AR within **EHEA**
- **BENELUX**: The Decision M(2015)3 of the Benelux Committee of Ministers concerning the automatic mutual generic level recognition of higher education degrees, as supplemented by the Decision M(2018)1
- **BALTIC**: The Agreement among the Government of the Republic of **Estonia**, the Government of the Republic of **Latvia** and the Government of the Republic of **Lithuania** on the automatic academic recognition of qualifications concerning higher education, signed in Vilnius on 8 June 2018, effective as of 7 January 2019
- **BENELUX-BALTIC**: concluded on 14 September 2021 – the Treaty on the Automatic Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications by the Flemish Community of **Belgium**, the French Community of **Belgium**, the German-speaking Community of **Belgium**, the Republic of **Estonia**, the Republic of **Latvia**, the Republic of **Lithuania**, the Grand-Duchy of **Luxembourg**, the Kingdom of the **Netherlands** [only within the Netherlands, no other territories]
- **EU Council Recommendation** 2018/C 444/01 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of 26 November 2018



# Development of best practices in recognition

- Implementation of LRC supported by the network of academic information and recognition centres (ENIC/NARIC) and their tools



ear.enic-naric.net/emanual/index.aspx

**enic-naric.net**  
gateway to recognition of academic and professional qualifications

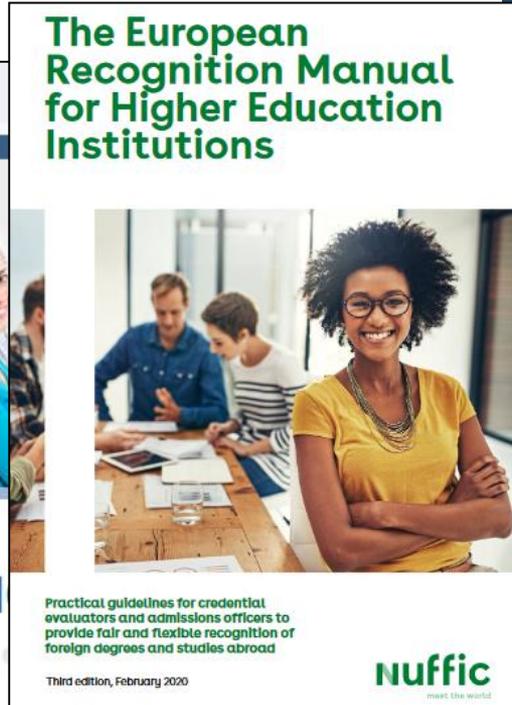
IPAH, European Union, ENIC-NARIC logos

**eManual**

1. SCHEMATIC OUTLINE

INTRODUCTI

What is the EAR manual



**The European Recognition Manual for Higher Education Institutions**

Practical guidelines for credential evaluators and admissions officers to provide fair and flexible recognition of foreign degrees and studies abroad

Third edition, February 2020

**nuffic**  
Netherlands Organisation for International Co-operation in Education



INTEGRATING  
ACADEMIC RECOGNITION  
AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE:  
PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

# Key tools

- AR relies on implementation of **Bologna** reforms and usage of common tools:
  - Implementation of **LRC**
  - Internal and external QA based on the **ESG**
  - Three cycles + Learning outcomes approach
  - **NQFs** aligned to EQF-LLL/ EHEA-QF
  - Issuing of **Diploma Supplement**
  - Usage of **ECTS**
  - digital **registers/DBs**
  - Implementation of **QA of recognition services**

eqar

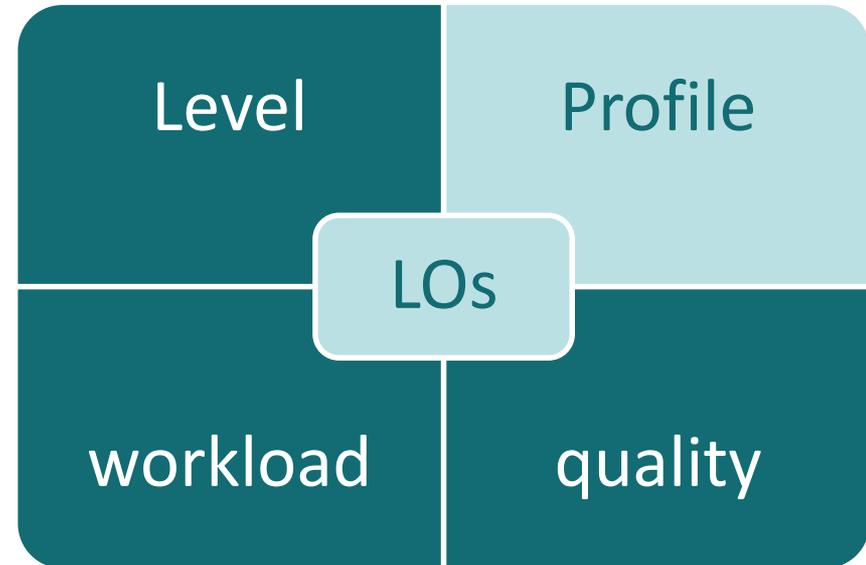


**ESG**  
**2015**

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance  
in the European Higher Education Area

# A closer look

- May or may not be based on **analysis of recognition practices**
- Does require a **shift in mentality** towards deeper trust and openness to slight differences in the systems
- Is a **binding** instrument for academic recognition, **but** not a guarantee of admission to a HEI / access to professional practice / hiring



# How does this work in practice?

- **APPLICANTS:** may not necessarily know their rights, thus the need for information provision and further referral by ENICs/NARICs remains
- **EMPLOYERS:** may not know the general provisions, may need a specific advice how to check legitimacy of an awarding body and authenticity of qualifications
- **ENICs/NARICs:** developing awareness of the new provisions and supporting the implementation by information provision through the website and [sometimes] personalised
- **HEIs:**
  - No need to check the **level**, **workload** and **quality** of a qualification
  - May need to check the **profile** and **learning outcomes** being fit for admission into a study programme of choice
  - Still need to check **authenticity** of documentation [if not digital], accreditation/recognition status of the institution/programme



**Thank you!**

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